

REMARKS

Claims 8, 15, 18, 21, and 22 are pending and under consideration. Claim 15 is amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed.

Since the amendments to the claims are being made at the behest of the Examiner, this amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding. Further reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The Applicants submit the following summary of the telephone interviews that took place December 5 and 10, 2007 between the undersigned representative of the Applicants and the Examiner.

Telephone Conference:

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended to the undersigned representative of the Applicants during the telephone interviews that took place December 5 and 10, 2007.

Among the issues discussed during those interviews were the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and the above-effected amendments to claim 15. The Examiner very graciously agreed to allow the application subject to the above-effected amendments to claim 15.

Since claim 15 has been amended as discussed during the telephone interviews, claim 15 is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 8, 18, 21, and 22.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 8, 15, 18, 21, and 22 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 8, 15, 18, 21, and 22 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/842,017

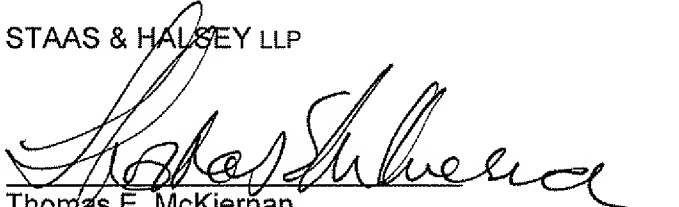
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10 05 07

By: 
Thomas E. McKiernan
Registration No. 37,889

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501